Journalists Welfare Fund

4143. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries under the Journalists Welfare Fund since its establishment in the year 2001-2002; and

(b) the total amount has, so far, been accumulated in the fund as on 31st March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) the beneficiaries under the Journalists Welfare Fund since its establishment in 2001-2002 are;—

(1) The families of :

(i) Late Yogesh B. Mathur, Correspondent, Press Trust of India (PTI) (Bhasha).

(ii) Late Ranjan Jha, Correspondent, TV Today (Aaj Tak).

(iii) Late Gopal Singh Bisht, Cameraman, TV Today (Aaj Tak).

(iv) Late Sanjiv Sinha, Correspondent, Indian Express.

(v) Late Ms. Anju Sharma, Correspondent, Hindustan Times, and

(2) Shri Vikram Singh Bisht, Technician, Asian News International (ANI).

(b) The balance of the fund as on 31.3.2002 was Rs. 495 lakhs.

Extending the area of FM Radio

†4144. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to extend the area of FM Radio;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, 130 FM transmitters are operational in the country providing coverage to about 3080 per cent of population. Further expansion of FM coverage is envisaged in the 10th Plan which will also include FM transmitters in the North East, under special package, which has received in-principle approval of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi